

**Cambridge Public Schools  
Administrative Guidelines and Procedures**

**IMMUNIZATIONS**

The Cambridge Public Schools (“CPS”) requires all students to comply with the Massachusetts Department of Health’s Minimum Immunization Requirements for School Entry. At each grade level, there are certain vaccinations that a student is required to receive in order to be enrolled. If a child’s immunizations are not up-to-date, they will be unable to attend until the appropriate forms are provided, showing the requisite immunizations.

**Exemptions**

A student may be exempted from the immunization requirement if:

1. a physician verifies, with appropriate documentation, that a given immunization would compromise the health of a student; or
2. a parent/guardian/caregiver states *in writing* that a given immunization would conflict with a sincere religious belief.

An exemption may *only* be granted for such medical and/or religious reasons. Documentation of exemptions granted to a student must be kept in their student record. **By Massachusetts law, philosophical exemptions are not allowed, even if signed by a physician.** Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 76, §§ 15, 15C-15D; 105 C.M.R. § 220.000.

**Exclusion of Students During Disease Outbreaks**

When one or more cases of a vaccine-preventable or any other communicable disease are present in a school, all susceptible students, *including those with medical and/or religious exemptions*, are subject to exclusion as described in the Procedures for Isolation and Quarantine, which states that “[o]rders for isolation and quarantine may include, but are not limited to, restricting individuals or groups from being present in certain places including but not limited to school or workplace.” 105 C.M.R. 300.210(B)(3).

***Policy references:*** JLC, JLCAA, JLCB

***Legal references:*** Mass. Gen. Laws, ch. 76, §§ 15, 15C-15D; Mass. Gen. Laws, ch. 111, §§ 5-7; 105 C.M.R. §§ 220.000, 300.000

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